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## The BG News October 5, 1987

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# Winter Sports Preview

THE BG NEWS



## Reloading not rebuilding

**Hockey, page 3**

**Basketball, page 4**

# Winter Sports Preview

THE BG NEWS

## Inside

Icers open Friday .....page 3

Cagers anxious to start .....page 4

Returning stars pictured .....page 6

Steve Martenet says no .....page 8

Women cagers loaded .....page 9

Frosh should contribute .....page 10

Gymnasts look for improvement .....page 11

Swimmers need coach .....page 12

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Special thanks to Chris Sherk, John Farina, Tracy Tajblik, Brad Phalin, Bob Bortel, Nancy Nelson and the production staff and Jan Stubbs and the advertising staff.

## On the cover

Last season, Bowling Green's women's basketball team went 16-0 in the Mid-American Conference and 27-3 overall. This is the team after it captured the MAC tournament.

Cover photo by  
Andraea Dalmas

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# Icers look to defend title

By Judi Kopp

Jerry York was faced with a rebuilding year following the 1984 National Championship season.

Several players graduated and four decided to take their wares to the professional ranks. Once again, York is faced with the task of replacing key players — not ones who graduated.

While the coaching staff anticipated the losses of co-captains Iain Duncan and Todd Flichel and All-American goalie Gary Kruzich, the loss of juniors Brian McKee and Paul Ysebaert may put a strain on the icers this season.



York

After posting an overall record of 33-10-2 and capturing the Central Collegiate Hockey Association championship with a 24-6-2 record, the icers must rebuild their losses.

York said making predictions for the end of the season is difficult.

"The CCHA will be a tough league to forecast this season," York said. "We will start out the year trying to defend our championship, but that is tempered by the graduation losses of key players such as goaltender Gary Kruzich and left wing Iain Duncan. Adding to those losses are Paul Ysebaert and Brian McKee, both of whom had one year of eligibility left.

"(These) losses have made people

## Offense should be good early; defense, goalies need seasoning

think we won't be a dominant team this year. But we bring in new players and there are several (veteran players) back," he said.

York said the team's primary strength will be the offensive unit, with five returning members.

"The team's strength is with Don Barber, a senior left winger, along with classmates Brent Regan and Andy Gribble," he said. "Those three will be joined on the offense by junior Greg Parks and sophomore Nelson Emerson.

"These five players will be the spearhead of our offense this year," he said.

Barber scored 63 points (29 goals and 34 assists) last season and is the team's highest scoring returning player. Emerson is second in points (61) with 26 goals and 35 assists. Parks racked up 50 points last season with 23 goals and 27 assists. Gribble scored 36 points (18 goals and 18 assists) and Regan had 12 goals and 17 assists for a total of 29 points.

However, York believes inexperience in defense and goaltending may be the team's weakness.

"Captain Scott Paluch will be a tremendous leader, but we'll need time

and (Brian) McKee will give these three players more ice time."

Last season, Paluch had 51 points (13 goals and 38 assists). Juniors Leggett (three goals and five assists) and Rusiecki (two goals and four assists) have established themselves as "dependable defensemen." Dahl, a sophomore, returns with two goals and six assists from his first season.

See Hockey page 5



BG News File Photo

Alan Leggett (left) and Scott Paluch (right) add punch to BG's defense.

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# Cagers anxious for practice

By Ron Fritz

Entering his first season as Bowling Green's head basketball coach, Jim Larranaga didn't know what to expect.

He was working with new players and teaching them a different system — the Falcons were picked to finish ninth in the Mid-American Conference. Not exactly encouraging for a first-year head coach.

But by the end of the season, Larranaga had the young squad battling for the MAC title. BG finished 15-14 overall and 10-6 in the conference, good for third place.

Because of the strong finish, the Falcons begin practice Thursday, Oct. 15 with a hint of optimism in the air for the upcoming season.

"We are anxiously awaiting the start of practice," Larranaga said. "We have a good group of young men who are willing to work extremely hard."

"We have eight returning veterans with enough experience to know our system and the direction our program is headed," he said. "We have seven freshmen coming in who should fit in well."



Robinson

Senior Steve Martenet said the team is ready to start practicing.

"We're ready to go," he said. "Last year, we learned how to win and it felt good."

Probably the biggest thing lost in BG's successful season last year was its lack of size — an easy thing to overlook.

The Falcons starting lineup had no one over 6-foot-5, by far the smallest Division I college starting five.

Larranaga said BG may have solved that problem by recruiting two players 6-9 or better, and no one smaller than 6-3.

"We got out-rebounded in 22 of 29 games last season," Larranaga said. "Overcoming that to have a winning season is a tremendous credit to our players. They worked hard and worked together to bring out the best in one another."

"We felt by getting some size, we can improve our rebounding and match up better defensively. All seven players recruited are at least 6-3, which gives us some depth and size."

Newcomers to the program include guards Billy Johnson (6-3), Derek Kizer (6-4), and Joe Moore (6-3); forwards Brad Morrison (6-6) and Juan Street (6-7) and center Dale Turnquist

(6-9). Center Ed Colbert (6-9) will be eligible in January.

Larranaga said he expects these players to make an impact on the Falcon basketball program for the next four years.

"They are the foundation for the future of the program," he said.

Martenet, who has played against the freshmen during the fall, said they will definitely contribute to the team.

See Basketball, page 8



BG News File Photo

Junior Joe Gregory brings experience to the point guard position.

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Senior Scott Paluch is the Falcon captain this season.

BG News File Photo

## Paluch named captain

Scott Paluch was named captain of the 1987-88 hockey team, according to head coach Jerry York.

Paluch, a senior from Chicago, Ill., has lettered three years for the Falcons.

He succeeds Todd Flichel and Iain Duncan as the BG captains.

York said Paluch will fit right into the role.

"I expect Scott to be a tremendous leader," York said.

Last season, the 6-foot-2, 190-pound defenseman scored 51 points on 13 goals and 38 assists. For his career, Paluch has scored 108 points.

This past summer, Paluch participated in the 1987 Olympic Sports Festival.

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### Hockey, from page 3

Returning in goal is sophomore Paul Connell who in his rookie season had four wins and one loss with a goals against average of 4.26. He and the freshman netminder, John Burke, are capable replacements, but young, York said.

"At the beginning of the season our strengths will be offense early. We'll have to work on defense as the year progresses," he said.

An impressive group of rookies in camp includes two goalies, three defensemen and three forwards.

"We have eight players in camp. When players come (to play) on the college level it takes them time to get accustomed to playing. Right now they are just feeling their way out," he said.

Besides the freshman netminder, other rookies include Rob Blake, Alex Herle and Marc White on the blueline, with Pierrick Maia, Matt Ruchty and Braden Shavchook on offense and sophomore goalie, Randy Kerans.

York is assisted by two full-time assistant coaches in Buddy Powers and Terry Flanagan and also Kevin Mann. The graduate assistant is George Roll. For the first time the team has an undergraduate assistant, Tom Pratt.

The season opens Friday at the University of Michigan. BG hosts the Wolverines Saturday at 7:30 p.m. ....



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# Teams reload after



BG News File Photo

Junior Jackie Motycka returns after being MAC most valuable player last season.



BG News File Photo

Senior Steve Martenet averaged 11 points last year.



Andrea Szekely holds numerous BG records, including the butterfly mark.

Photo by Brad Phalin



# banner '86 seasons



Senior Andy Gribble and the rest of icers look to move forward this year.

Photo by Brad Phalin



**BG News File Photo**  
A member of BG's gymnastic squad is congratulated after her routine.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** Last season, Fran Voll's squad posted a perfect 16-0 Mid-American Conference mark and a school-record 27-3 overall mark. BG won the MAC tournament and gained an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament. Junior Jackie Motycka was the MAC Player of the Year.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL:** Jim Larranaga's Falcons made the nation's biggest jump last season under a first-year head coach on the Division I level. BG finished 15-14 overall and 10-6 in the MAC, good for third place.

**HOCKEY:** The Falcons won the CCHA title and appeared in the NCAA tournament before bowing out to Harvard. Jerry York's unit has won the CCHA four of the last six years. BG opens Friday at the University of Michigan.

**SWIMMING:** Currently searching for a head coach, the Falcons have been successful in the MAC the past three years. The women have been conference runner-ups since 1981 and the men have finished in the top three the last three years.

**GYMNASTICS:** Last season, Charles Simpson's squad was the MAC runner-up and qualified for the NCAA Northeast Regional for the fourth straight year. Once again, the Falcons are expected to battle for the conference title.



# Martenet helps NCAA cause

By Ron Fritz

Any other athlete might have just said no. But Steve Martenet couldn't turn down the NCAA when it wanted to tape a "Just Say No to Drugs" commercial at his home this summer.

Martenet was one of six Mid-American Conference athletes chosen to appear in the ads. The 6-foot-5 senior taped the commercial in the middle of August in Mansfield.



Martenet

## Stars in 'Say No To Drugs' ad

"I guess they called the MAC office to ask for names and mine came up," Martenet said. "I've seen the different versions they have, but I'm not sure which one they are going to use."

BG head coach Jim Larranaga said he was happy to see one of his athletes get chosen by the NCAA to do the commercials.

"I was extremely pleased to see two of my players, both seniors, get recognition in the off-season," the second-year BG mentor said. "I think we opened up some eyes to our program after last season."

In addition to Martenet, Anthony Robinson was selected as a pre-season *Street & Smith* honorable mention All-American.

The commercials will appear during NCAA basketball games that are being broadcasted.

Martenet said the taping of the commercial "didn't take too long."

"We finished the whole thing in about 10 takes," he said. "It was nice. I'm surprised I was chosen; there are other bigger names in the MAC."

However, none of the "bigger

names" have the credentials Martenet has.

He is a three-year starter for the Falcons, last season averaging 11 points. In his sophomore season, he led the league in field goal percentage.

But where Martenet has earned many of his honors has been in the class room.

The finance/legal studies major has a 3.8 grade point average and could become the first MAC athlete to be a Rhodes Scholar.

Last season, he was an Academic All-American.

Entering his senior season, it's hard for Martenet not to be excited.

"I can't wait for the season to start," he said. "I'm very optimistic. Last year, we learned how to win. Now, we want more."

## From Basketball, page 4

"They are a good class of ball players," Martenet said. "The sooner they pick up Coach Larranaga's system the better we will be as a team. They are all good. They can play."

Add the freshmen to the returning cast, which includes four starters, and you see why Larranaga and his staff are anxious for Oct. 15.

Returning starters include 6-5 senior Anthony Robinson at off-guard, where he averaged 13.4 points last season. He is a *Street & Smith* pre-season honorable mention All-American. Martenet, 6-5 forward, averaged 11 points last season.

Also, 5-8 junior Joe Gregory (9.7 points) returns at point guard and 6-5 junior Lamon Pippin (9.9) comes back at forward.

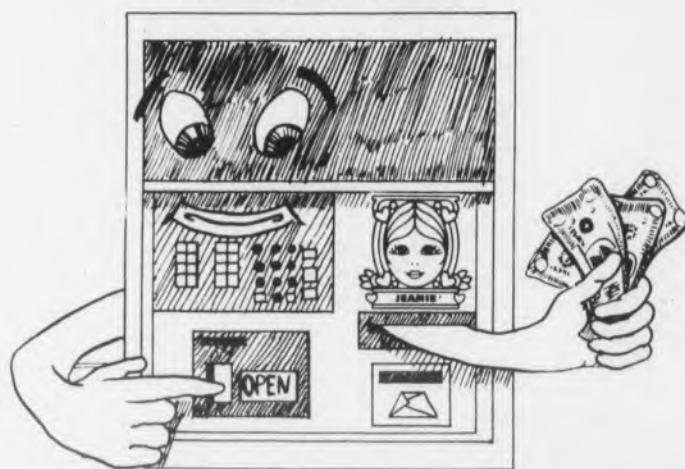
In addition, Scott Kalish, 5-9 junior, will add experience at point guard, 6-8 junior Dan Raupp brings size to the center position and 6-4 sophomore Pop Jennings will return at forward. Senior James Tyler, 6-5, started 14 games last season for BG.

According to Larranaga, the team hasn't set goals yet for this season, but that there is always one priority in BG's basketball program.

"Our one goal always is to continue to improve from day-to-day, game-to-game, year-to-year," he said. "This year, we will sit down as a team and establish new team goals for the upcoming season."

The Falcons open the season at home Nov. 30 against Findlay. The MAC season won't begin until Jan. 6, when BG travels to Ball State.

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# Voll expects improvement

By Marc Delph

After a 27-3 season and 16-0 run through the Mid-American Conference, coach Fran Voll will be hard pressed to continue the steady improvement that has marked the Bowling Green women's basketball program the past three years.

But Voll thinks he has a team up to the task.

"Each year is a new year," said Voll, MAC Coach of the Year who is entering his fourth campaign. "For our older players, this is going to be the end of the line. The great thing is last year's seniors went out as MAC champions.

The others have a new challenge. It's a new year and we always want to go after a conference championship."

The Falcons will definitely be one of the favorites, returning nine letterwinners. BG also has three returning starters, led by MAC Player of the Year, Jackie Motycka.

Motycka led the Falcons with 19.2 points and 6.8 rebounds per game last year. The 6-0 junior forward is a two-time member of the All-MAC first team.



Voll

"I told her I want her to have as good a year as she had as a sophomore," Voll said of Motycka. "I think this year we will be able to help her out, from a standpoint that we can take pressure off of her. She shoots the ball so well. She does some things that are unassuming. We sit back and marvel at all the points she scores then we wonder how she got them."

The other two returners are 6-2 center Dawn Eastman and 5-3 point guard Paulette Backstrom. Eastman, a senior, averaged 6.9 points and 4.6 rebounds per outing. Backstrom, a junior, started 27 games with a 5.0 scoring average and three assists per game.

Top returners include 6-1 forward Megan McGuire, BG's sixth person who was third on the team in scoring with an 8.0 average. McGuire, who came on to spark the Falcons on countless occasions last year, also averaged 5.6 rebounds per game. As a junior, she should figure into Voll's starting unit.

However, there are many other players with the same intention.

"I like the fact that we have some experienced players coming back," Voll said. "Now we have to find that certain chemistry that we had last year. I think we have a lot of unknowns, but I think we have a nice nucleus to work with."

See Cagers, page 10

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## Frosh to contribute

By Marc Delph

Bowling Green women's basketball fans will be looking up at this year's freshman class - literally.

The three recruits coach Fran Voll introduced to BG's most successful program in 1986 average nearly six feet. They are forwards Heather Finfrock, 6-0, and Traci Gorman, 6-1, and guard-forward Erin Vick, 5-10.

But in recruiting, Voll said he isn't going to substitute speed for size. In his very-successful game plan, both entities are needed.

"For our size, we have ample foot speed," Voll said. "We have as much or more good speed as we had in the past. We're a bigger team as lineup possibilities. . . there are some real good possibilities."

Voll has been leaning toward the bigger players in all three of his recruiting classes. His first class featured All-Mid-American Conference forward Jackie Motycka, who stands 6-0. Also in the junior class is Megan McGuire, whom Voll said added an inch in the offseason and now stands 6-1.

Last year, Voll brought in the  
**See Frosh, page 11**

From Cagers, page 9

Other top returners are senior guards Wendi Huntley and Chris Mossing, both three-time letterwinners. The sophomore trio of centers Angie Bonner and Jo Motter and forward Tecca Thompson add additional experience. Bonner, 6-2, was named to the MAC's All-Freshman team.

"We also have some young kids coming into our program that will bolster our competition situation," Voll said.

The Falcons have three freshmen coming up, all coming off outstanding high school careers. All three gained All-Ohio recognition.

Traci Gorman and Heather Finfrock are a pair of 6-0 forwards, while Erin Vick, from nearby Maumee High School, is a 5-10 guard-forward. Voll said all three could see plenty of playing time this season.

The Falcons must replace the outside shooting touch and leadership of the departed Stephanie Coe. As a senior, Coe averaged 18.8 points and 5.8 rebounds per game. Coe was named tournament MVP when her last-second shot delivered the Falcons to a MAC tourney title and into the NCAA tournament last March. She was also an Academic All-American

and first team All-MAC performer.

McGuire is the leading candidate to fill Coe's spot, while Thompson, 5-10, and Gorman could also figure to play small forward.

Dawn Brown at off-guard was BG's other starter lost to graduation. Brown averaged over seven points and three rebounds per game. McGuire will also be tested at off-guard, which would give the Falcons a dominant advantage in height. Chris Mossing and Vick will also vie for the off-guard spot.

"I'm real interested to see how well our kids can do," Voll said. "We have kids who can contribute from top to bottom. We have kids who have done some things this summer and have improved."

One thing is certain, most BG basketball fans no longer file into Anderson Arena late in the women's game in order to get a good seat for the men's contest. Falcon fans now come early and stay late.

BG was ranked in the top 50 by the NCAA for attendance at women's basketball games, based on the four single game which did not prelude a men's game.

"I know that's a good situation for us," Voll said. "It's always nice to play in Anderson Arena."



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# Gymnasts look for MAC title

By Andy Woodard

After finishing second by the narrowest of margins at last year's Mid American Conference championships, Bowling Green gymnastics team has their sights set on the conference crown this season.

The reason the Falcons are looking to the top is because they return the main core of last year's team, including senior Kim Trost, who holds two school records, and All-MAC performers Suzanne Bell and Lisa Hillman.

After an 8-4 overall record and 6-0 in the MAC regular season a year ago,

coach Charles Simpson said his team should be one of the favorites at the MAC championships.

"The MAC is coming back to Ohio after two years in Michigan and one year in Illinois. (It) will be at Kent State this year," Simpson said. "Our goal is to win the MAC and it's going to be hard to win at Kent, but we should do well."



Simpson

If the squad does have a good season, one of the main reasons will be Trost, who was a "walk-on" last year. In the Pittsburgh meet, she earned a 9.6 for her performance on the balance beam and a 37.15 in the all-around to set two school records.

Simpson also said seniors Gretchen Van Hartsma and Maria DeChiara have performed well in the early practices this year. Both were hampered by injuries for most of last year.

In addition, Simpson said two other major factors on the team will be Bell and Hillman. Bell said last year she

performed inconsistently until the end of season when she placed second on the floor exercise at the MAC championships to earn All-MAC honors.

Hillman performed consistently throughout the whole season a year ago and capped it off with a school record-tying 9.2 on the uneven parallel bars. The mark equalled former All-MAC performer Julie Bender Cleary's record set during the 1981-82 season.

However, the team will be without Vicki Farrar, who injured her knee on the floor exercise at the NCAA regional championships at Ohio State in St. John Arena last April. She had off-

See Gymnastics, page 12

From Frosh, page 10

team's biggest player, 6-2 center Angie Bonner as well as 6-0 center Jo Motter.

Half of BG's players stand 6-0 or taller.

Gorman led her Delphos St. John's High School team to the state championship last season and was named Class A Player of the Year. She was named all-district team all four years in high school, as well as playing on the AAU Junior Olympic Team in that span.

She possesses an outstanding outside shooting touch and averaged 21 points per game.

"A Traci Gorman, with her size, can be a solid help to our program," Voll said. "Not to mention Erin Vick and Heather Finrock."

Finrock, from Riverside High School in DeGraff, was also an all-state performer, who figures to add strength to BG's front line in the future.

Finrock led Riverside to four league championships and two districts titles during her high school career. As a senior, she averaged 16.5 points and 10 rebounds while setting school records for rebounds in a season (248), career (864) and field goal shooting in a season (.590). Finrock was named District IX Co-Player of the Year in '87 while earning a spot on the Associated Press All-Ohio team.

Vick averaged over 21 points per game at nearby Maumee High School. She was named league MVP and earned second team All-Ohio honors last year. An outstanding all-around athlete, Vick was also named all-northwest Ohio and was a member of the all-district seven basketball team.

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